



Swine flu

Profiting from panic

With news emerging that the World Health Organisation (WHO) could soon announce the scaling down of the swine flu pandemic, the world's population may be entitled to breathe a collective sigh of relief, combined, for many, with a growing sense of having been conned.

More and more people, both inside and outside the global scientific community, are beginning to question the swift call to chemical arms that followed the detection of the outbreak of this new and apparently deadly flu in early 2009. And the name Dr Albert Osterhaus, 'Dr Flu', is on more and more lips as his, and other highly placed scientists, have their links to the very pharmaceutical companies who have benefited to the tune of billions of dollars, examined.

Osterhaus has been one of the chief advisors to the World Health Organisation and is a world-renowned Dutch virologist who was at the core of the discovery of Avian or Bird flu in 2003. In this instance the predictions were almost as dramatic as those accompanying the discovery of Swine Flu. The WHO said there could be up to 150 million deaths world wide – up to now there have been 282 recorded deaths from Bird Flu, none in Spain, though governments all over the world stockpiled antiviral drugs, including Tamiflu and Relenza, at a cost of billions.

In April 2009 a new opportunity (so the cynics would say) presented itself, with the reported case of the illness of a small child with what was diagnosed as Swine Flu, or H1N1. This was followed up with an outbreak at La Gloria, Mexico. In an extensive article by William Engdahl* it is pointed out that the symptoms make sense given that La Gloria is near "one of the world's largest pig industrial feeding concentrations at La Gloria owned by Smithfield Farms of the USA. Residents had picketed the Smithfield Farms site in Mexico for months complaining of severe respiratory problems from the faecal waste lagoons".

In June the WHO head Margaret Chan made the declaration of a Phase 6 pandemic emergency. Again predictions were dire. However to date this has proved to be, according to Marc Lipsitch, professor of epidemiology at Harvard University, one of the mildest flues since records began. World wide there have been 13,000 deaths, 230 of those in Spain. Annually the number of deaths resulting from normal winter flu is in the region of 250,000 – 500,000 with 1-4,000 in Spain. The figures speak for themselves.

Certainly here in Spain anecdotal evidence that doctors have been loath to recommend vaccination (as much for the belief that it wasn't needed as some concern about lack of full testing) would appear to

show that your local doctor is more on the ball than the WHO's advisors – or perhaps less likely to be on commission from the drug companies supplying the viruses, in their millions, to countries, worldwide. Vaccines are now lying stockpiled in warehouses, with some governments, including Spain, looking at the refund clause in their contracts with said drug companies.

According to an article in Spanish magazine *XL Semanal* only one in ten professionals in the health sector here have been vaccinated even though they were listed in the 'at-risk' groups. "Spain", the article adds, "acquired 37 million doses but has only vaccinated three million persons....according to the minister for health Trinidad Jiménez the contracts they have signed include clauses which allow for the return of the vaccine left over. Let's see".

William Engdahl reports, "in an interview with *Der Spiegel* magazine in Germany, epidemiologist Dr. Tom Jefferson of the Cochrane Collaboration, an organisation of independent scientists evaluating all flu related studies, noted the implications of the privatisation of WHO and the commercialisation of health: "...one of the extraordinary features of this influenza, and the whole influenza saga, is that there are some people who make predictions year after year, and they get worse and worse. None of them so far have come about, and these

people are still there making these predictions. For example, what happened with the bird flu, which was supposed to kill us all? Nothing. But that doesn't stop these people from always making their predictions. Sometimes you get the feeling that there is a whole industry almost waiting for a pandemic to occur. Spiegel: Who do you mean? The World Health Organization (WHO)? Jefferson: The WHO and public health officials, virologists and the pharmaceutical companies. They've built this machine around the impending pandemic. And there's a lot of money involved, and influence, and careers, and entire institutions! And all it took was one of these influenza viruses to mutate to start the machine grinding."

There are now growing calls for an investigation into the "growing evidence of massive corruption of the WHO by the industry", and with the change in recent years in the financing of the body, with the organisation now receiving almost double its normal UN budget in the form of grants and financial support from private industry, such an investigation would not be before time.

*The full article, WHO, 'Mr Flu' under investigation for gross conflict of interest is online at <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article15655.html> and William Engdahl website is www.engdahl.oilgeopolitics.net

Norovirus

GLOBAL BUG HITS SOUTH TENERIFE

Residents and holidaymakers alike were recently hit by an outbreak of the Norovirus which swept through the Los Gigantes area, affecting possibly hundreds of people.

The vomiting and diarrhoea bug is thought to be responsible for up to 90 per cent of cases of non-bacterial endemic gastroenteritis globally. The virus can be spread through contact with an infected person, surfaces or objects, by eating contaminated food or water or by inhaling droplets containing, for instance, particles of vomit. It is highly contagious, and transmission is difficult to control through routine sanitary measures.

Outbreaks of the illness are common, particularly within contained environments such as hospitals and schools, and are estimated to affect between 600,000 and one million people in the UK every year.

The Los Gigantes area is not alone in having suffered during the last few months, passengers on several cruise liners have been stricken, as well as various resorts and cities around the world. The incidence of the illness in Britain is currently the highest since 2002. In fact, the BBC recently disclosed that, at the peak of the epidemic, over 140 hospital wards had to be closed during one weekend in January.

Whilst it is possible therefore that the virus was brought to the area by visitors, a number of Britons are apparently planning legal action after falling ill whilst staying at the Los Gigantes Hotel. Irwin Mitchell, the legal firm, is evidently acting on behalf of more than 30 guests who have recently returned from the four-star hotel, which is exclusively run by Thomson Holidays.

In a statement published in the Telegraph newspaper Thomson stated, "In January, an independent hygiene consultant confirmed that the hotel was operating to the highest standards and concluded that a viral agent was the most probable cause of any illness. The hotel has adopted procedures set by its own consultants and local government. The hygiene consultant witnessed these and has advised that they appear to follow good practice. There is advisory documentation on personal hygiene in bedrooms and sanitising gel stations are located in the main restaurant."

Germán Jiménez, councillor for tourism for the area, expressed his concern regarding the illness, saying "this is a virus that is affecting many people, not just in Tenerife, but all over the world."

To reduce the spread of Norovirus, wash hands regularly, disinfect surfaces and door handles with bleach-based products, wash clothing and bed linens of infected people and remain at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms subside.

Pink parades

● The Pink Parade Fashion show and clothes sale held its debut on 24th January at Bistro Bolle, Costa del Silencio, the show featured all local ladies and guest singers were Desi Castro, Colin Stevens and Nick Page.

Hosted by Patrick owner of Bolle, it proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon and a charity raffle and ribbon sale was held raising €200 for breast cancer. Pink Parade founder Jan Munroe has been joined by partner, film and make-up artist Jannie Stax who coordinates all the shows etc.

The next show will be 28th February at The Palms Golf del sur from 1pm, tickets €5 and again a charity raffle auction for breast cancer, call 699342652 for details.

They are hoping to hold the shows monthly all over Tenerife so watch this space.

Fashion for cancer

